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Suggestions to the hepatitis B vaccine events

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The media has reported several neonatal death events recently, and it is suspected that these events are related to improper vaccination. This is a deeply regrettable occurrence. Regarding the current situation, we suggest relevant national departments lead and organize experts in areas of clinical medicine, epidemiology, disease control, legal medicine, pharmacy, bio-product research and development, quality control and other related fields to establish a joint investigation team to conduct an investigation quickly and independently to determine the causes as soon as possible to reassure the public. Currently, the public is focused on whether the vaccine is safe. Therefore, it should be first made clear whether the deaths were caused by vaccination. If so, what was the cause of death? If not, the causes resulting in death should be identified. These might be quite complex, therefore the investigation should be thorough and meticulous, involving vaccine production, quality inspection, supervision, distribution, transportation, storage, vaccination and other processes. The situation of vaccinating newborns should also be investigated, including whether they have other concurrent diseases, changes in vital signs and exact causes of death, to ensure that all evidence is true, scientific and fair. We can take targeted measures to prevent this kind of tragedy from happening again only after determining the exact causes of death. There are many hepatitis B cases in China and vaccination is the most effective means of prevention. From the 1990s onwards, hepatitis B vaccination has been popular and has significantly reduced the hepatitis B infection rate of the newborn population in China. Furthermore, in recent years in China, a very well developed system has been formed for hepatitis B vaccine from R&D to production, vaccination and supervision. Generally speaking, hepatitis B vaccination is safe and effective. It is essential to receive vaccination to prevent hepatitis B infection. Therefore, it is critical to determine the truth behind the neonatal deaths following vaccination. We should not take these events lightly, or give up on hepatitis B vaccination because of the potential of slight risks. The fundamental purpose of all these efforts is to protect the people's health.

Biographical Sketch

Professor Li LanJuan, a M.D. supervisor, academician of the CAE (Chinese Academy of Engineering) and chief physician of the First Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang University, is a famous infectious disease specialist in China and she has been engaged in clinical, teaching and scientific research work in the field of infectious diseases for 40 years. She is a pioneer in the study of artificial liver in China and established a special and effective artificial liver system (Li's artificial liver system (Li-ALS)), which was a momentous breakthrough in the treatment of severe hepatitis. Professor Li has also made great achievements in microecology research by developing new infectious microecology theories that explore the occurrence, development, and outcome of infection from the microecological perspective, and by proposing new strategies for the pre-

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vention and control of infections. In addition, she has undertaken more than 10 key research projects such as the national science fund project, National High Technology Research and Development Program of China and National Basic Research Program of China and so on. She has 22 authorized invention patents and has published more than 400 papers, over 150 collected by SCI academic journals including *The Lancet* and *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Served as the first completed, she has won several prizes including first prize of National Science and Technology Progress, and second prize of National Science and Technology Progress twice, first prizes of Science and Technology Progress of Zhejiang Province five times, and the second prize of Popularization and Application of Award in Colleges and Universities granted by the Ministry of Education. Presently, she holds the post of director of the State Key Laboratory for the Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases, the Leader of State Key Discipline Department of Internal Medicine (Infectious Diseases), and also director of the Zhejiang Infectious Disease Key Laboratory.

Meanwhile, she is also the director of the Department of Bio-Medicine of the Ministry of Education, vice chairman of the Chinese Medical Association (CMA), vice president of the Chinese Health Information Society (CHIA), deputy chairman of the Chinese Society of Biomedical Engineering (CSBE), and director of the National Artificial Liver Training Base, division chief of the Microecology Branch of Chinese Preventive Medicine Association (CPMA), division chief of the Infectious Diseases Branch of Chinese Medical Doctor Association (CDMA), a vice-chairman member of the Third Cloud Computing Expert Committee of Chinese Institute of Electronics (CIE), chairman of the International Human Microbiome Consortium (IHMC), board trustees of the International Society for Apheresis (ISFA), president of Zhejiang Medical Association, editor-in-chief of the *Chinese Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases*, *Chinese Journal of Microecology and Zhejiang Medical Journal*, vice editor-in-chief of the *Chinese Journal of Infectious Diseases* and *International Journal of Epidemiology and Infectious Disease*. She has edited and published 28 monographs including the first edition of "*Artificial Liver*" and "*Infectious Microecology*" of China; and planned textbooks of Epidemiology. Furthermore, she also holds the position of vice chief engineer of the "Twelfth Five-Year Plan"—a major science-technology project titled "Prevention and Treatment of AIDS and Viral Hepatitis and Other Major Infectious Diseases" and is the expert team leader of "Field Study at Comprehensive Prevention and Control Demonstration Area". In 2010, she won the title of "National Excellent Science and Technology Workers" for her great contribution to the diagnosis and treatment of infectious disease.